MANIPURI (MITEI) GRAMMAR

WITH

ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES

BY

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AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY.

THE MANIPUR RESEARCH SOCIETY, IMPHAL

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PREFACE.

In Volume III, Part III of the Linguistic Survey of India by G. A. Grierson, C.I.E., I.C.S., the editor on page 24 remarks that, " Mr. Primrose's Manual is too short for getting a clear idea of this form of speech (Manipuri), and it is desirable that some-one should undertake to give a fuller description of the language."

At the desire of Lieutenant-Colonel J. Shakespear, Political Agent of the State, I have, with much diffidence, accepted the task of giving a fuller description of the language. I gratefully acknowledge the interest taken by Colonel Shakespear in my labours, and also the assistance I have derived from the perusal of the several excellent outline Grammars of the languages of those tribes lying close to the borders of the Manipur frontier, especially those classed under the Kuki, Chin, and Tibetan Burman groups.

After nearly twenty years' acquaintance with the Manipuris and their language, it gives me great pleasure in being able, through the generosity of the Eastern Bengal and Assam Government, to put the knowledge gained into concrete form.

W PETTIGREW.

UKHRUL, TANGKHUL NAGA HILLS,
MANIPUR, ASSAM.
1912.

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ALPHABET.

In preparing the following pages for Government, I have been asked to follow the system of transliteration for the Roman character suggested by Sir Charles Lyall, C.I.E. The Bengali character, which is the character used by the Manipuris, has also been introduced in the illustrative sentences at end of book, and under this chapter, with the hope that it may be of some use to the military, as well as to the civil officials of the State.

(*a*) Vowels.

a	অ	unmarked, short as in "company" like the sound of *u* in "but."
á	আ	long as in "father."
à	অ্যা	sharp as in "pan." Very seldom used in Manipuri, except in borrowed words from other languages.
e	এ	unmarked, as in "then," "met," bed."
ē	ঐ	for the sound of *ey* in "they" or *ai* in "aim."
i	ই	unmarked as in "thin."
ī	ঈ	long, as in "machine," never for *i* in "shine."
o	ও	unmarked, a medium sound, neither so short as in "not," nor so long as in "nought."
ō	ঔ	long, as in bone.
u	উ	like *u* in "pull," "bull," never the sound of *u* in "hull," "skull."
ū	ঊ	as long sound of *oo* in English.

(*b*) Dipthongs.

ai	আই	as *ie* in "lie."
ao	আও	as *ow* in "how," "house."
ei	এই	as in "feign" with the *i* audible.
ui	উই	as *ee* in "between."
oi	ওই	as *oy* in "toy."

(c) Consonants.

b বি as in English.
c is discarded, except in *ch* (চ) as in "church."
d ডি as in English.
f এফ as in English.
g জি or যি as in English.
j জে as in English.
k কে as in English
l এল as in English.
m এম as in English.
n এন as in "new."
ŋ (*ng*) ঙ : like *ng* in "song" when ending a syllable, and like "*nga*" when occurring at the beginning When the *ng* sounds occur double, the first is replaced by *ng*, and *ŋ* is used for the second, *i.e.*, "*ngāŋba*". The Asiatic Society has adopted *ŋ* to represent this letter.
p পি as in English.
q discarded.
r আর as in English.
s এস as in "this."
sh শ not so forcible as in "shall" but a thinner sound as in "push." } See further remarks under Pronunciation.
t টি as in English.
**th* থ as in hot-house, fat-hen.
v ভি discarded
w ও as in English
x এক্স discarded
z discarded.

* Besides the above aspirated consonant, the following are more or less frequent:— *dh*, *kh*, *ph*, and *jh*.
ধ খ ফ and ঝ

PRONUNCIATION.

A few rules with regard to vowel and consonant modifications are necessary to enable the student to secure an accurate accent. With regard to the vowels:—

1. All uninflected verbs and most of the adjectives, which are in form relative participles, have the particle *bā* or *pā* attached to the root words as—*chat-pā*, to go; *tō-bā*, to do; but it should be remembered that in speaking,